

# PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 12 Feb 59		2. LOCATION W of Tanana, Alaska		12. CONCLUSIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 13/0115Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		6. SOURCE Military			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION not given		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS 1		9. COURSE N/A	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Balloon approximately 50 ft diameter and 30% longer from top to bottom. Box suspended below balloon. Approximately 100 ft of cable or rope extended below box. Balloon shot down, but not yet recovered.				11. COMMENTS Source of balloon and equipment cannot be determined until recovery.	



**A** PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT PRIOR TO  
CATEGORY B ENCRYPTION--PHYSICALLY REMOVE  
ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES BY DATE-TIME GROUP  
PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION

HQAO36AGDO17

PP RJEDSQ

DE RJKDAG 13

P

FM COMDR AAC ELMENDORF AFB ALASKA

TO RJEZHQ/COFS HQ USAF WASH DC

INFO RJWFAL/CINCNOAD ENT AFB COLO SPRINGS COLO

RJEDSQ/COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

BT

// [REDACTED] //FROM ACS/INT AAC 50015

ACTION HQ USAF ATTN AFCIN. INFO NORAD J-2. THIS REPORT

CONCERNS AN UNIDENTIFIED BALOON, SHOT DOWN OVER ALASKA, TRACK

W2G, 13 FEB ZULU IN THREE PARTS. PART I. CAPT J. J. VOYNICH

HQ 11TH AIR DIVISION DIVERTED TO TART IN T-33 FOR CHASE.

1/LT G. H. MEYERS, 317TH FIS WAS ALREDY ORBITING TARGET IN

E-102. ON ARRIVAL OF T-33 OF F-102 MADE A FIRING PASS AT

0115Z WITH 2.75 ROCKETS AND MISSED FOLLOWING WHICH HE RECOVERED

AT GALENA AFS. T-33 CONTINUED TO ORBIT TARGET, ALTITUDE 33,000

TO 34,000 FEET. PILOT DESCRIBES AS FOLLOWS: BALOON PORTION

UNCLASSIFIED

1  
2 > 4E4  
3 4E

4-4X2a2

71.4

PAGE TWO RJKDAG 13

ELONGATED VERTICALLY, APPROXIMATELY 50 FEET ACROSS AND 30

PERCENT LONGER FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. MILKY-CLEAR APPEARANCE.

BACK OR NEAR BLACK BOX SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY UNDER BALOON

ESTIMATED 3 BY 3 BY 4 FEET. GREATEST LENGTH VERTICAL HEIGHT.

ONE SIDE APPEARED TO HAVE A MIRROR BRIGHT SURFACE. APPROXI-

MATELY 100 FEET ONE HALF INCH OR LARGER CABLE OR ROPE EXTEND-

IND DOWN BELOW BOX. EASILY VISIBLE FROM ONE HALF MILE. TWO

ADDITIONAL FGAQPWS ARRIVED IN AREA AT APPROXIMATELY 0135Z.

CAPT Y. L. ISBELL, 317TH FIS MADE SUCCESSFUL FIRING PASS AT

0148Z WITH 2.75 ROCKETS, ALTITUDE 33,000 TO 34,000 FEET. T-33

SAW BALOON COLLAPSE AND DESCEND AT ABOUT FREE FALL SPEED.

GAVE CHASE, LOSING ALTITUDE AT ABOUT 6,000 FEET PER MINUTE.

BALOON WAS STREAMING ABOVE BLACK BOX. OBJECTS DISAPPEARED

INTO HAZE AT ABOUT 20,000 FEET. T-33 CONTINUED DOWN TO

APPROXIMATELY 7,000 FEET BUT HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT. RECOVERED

AT GALENA AFS. SECOND F-102 ORBITED AND WENT DOWN AS LOW AS

4,000 FEET IN AREA. PILOT CAPT Y. H. HANSON, 317TH FIS,

REPORTED LAST CONTACT AT 16,000 FEET AT 0226Z, RECOVERED AT

GALENA AFS, 0300Z PARA PART II: TIN CITY ACW STATION THEN

CAMPION ACW HAD CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCE OF TARGET FROM 122105Z

Classification Cancelled

OR Changed to UNCL

Auth AFR 205-1D

Para 2-126 (ii)

By H. [Signature]

14 FEB 59 15 48

ATIC

PAGE 3 RJKDAG 13

TO 130115Z AT WHICH TIME THE FIRST F-102 MADE AN UNSUCCESSFUL

FIRING AT BLNF 1020. AT THIS POINT TARGET APPEARED TO ORBIT,

COMING OUT OF ORBIT AT 0224Z. POSITION AT 0228Z BLNE 2530.

CONTACT LOST BLNE 5026 AT 0243Z. PARA PART III. ACS/INT AAC


COMMENTS. 1. ORIGIN OF OBJECT UNKNOWN. 2. IT IS BELIEVED



SURVEILLANCE OF TARGET BY CAMPION ACW PROBABLY CEASED OR BECAME UNRELIABLE AT 130115Z, SINCE PLOTS BECAME ERRATIC FOLLOWING THAT TIME. IT IS CONSIDERED PROBABLE THAT TARGET AND ORBITING AIRCRAFT BECAME CONFUSED. 3. IT IS BELIEVED THE TARGET FELL STRAIGHT TO EARTH AT OR VERY NEAR THE POINT OF THE SUCCESSFUL FIRING PASS AT 0148Z, BLME 1557. 4. IT IS BELIEVED ALL OR A PORTION OF THE BALOON ENVELOPE FLAILED OR BROKE LOOSE FROM THE BOX AND FLOATED EARTHWARD AT A MORE LEISURELY RATE RESULTING IN SUBSEQUENT TARGET REPORTING. PARA 5. THE TARGET PAYLOAD PROBABLY STRUCK THE EARTH AT OR NEAR TERMINAL VELOCITY FORCE RESULTING IN RUPTURE AND BURYING IN SNOW. DARKNESS AND POOR WEATHER HAVE PREVENTED SEARCH OF THE AREA. PARA. 6. RESULTS OF SEARCH EFFORTS ARE BEING REPORTED TO NORAD THROUGH OPERATIONAL CHANNELS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS OBJECT IS FOUND. AT THAT TIME WE WILL FORWARD THROUGH NORMAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE FOUR RJKDAG 13  
INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS TO ALL CONCERNED.  
BT  
14 FEB RJKDAG





NNNN

ZCZCSQPS260CZCSQF877ZCJYD136

PP RJEDSQ

DE RJEZHQ 638

P 181634Z

FMHHEDUSAF

TO COMATIC

BT

UNCLASSIFIED FROMHAF CIN-1A1 36239

FOR CIN-4E. REQUEST YOUR EVALUATION AND COMMENTS ON AAC MESSAGE.

54015

*Ref msg dated Feb 14<sup>th</sup>*

BT

18/1648ZNTED RJEZHQ

*Sup P/25/59**→ 4E  
24E4ATIC  
34X2a*



## JOINT MESSAGEFORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

AC

PARAPHRASE NOT REQUIRED EXCEPT PRIOR TO  
CATEGORY B ENCRYPTION—PHYSICALLY REMOVE  
ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES BY DATE-TIME GROUP  
PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION—NO UNCLASSIFIED  
REFERENCE IF THE DATE-TIME GROUP IS QUOTED

1748

PRECEDENCE	TYPE MSG (Check)	ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
ACTION ROUTINE	BOOK MULTI SINGLE	AF	AFCIN 1A1 36239	UNCL
INFO	X			

FROM:

COMDR, ATIC

20X

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO:

HQ., USAF, WASHINGTON, D. C.

FROM: AFCIN-4E4

IC 40438

REF MSG AFCIN 1A1 36239, DTD 18 FEB 59, CONCERNING AAC MSG 50015, DTD 14 FEB 59. IF THE PILOT'S ESTIMATE OF SIZE IS CORRECT, THE BALLOON WAS TOO SMALL TO BE A SKYHOOK BALLOON. A CHECK FAILS TO REVEAL ANY PROJECT IN OPERATION THAT UTILIZES THIS TYPE BALLOON, OR ONE THAT WOULD HAVE DRIFTED TO ALASKA. IT IS POSSIBLE THE BALLOON COULD HAVE DRIFTED OVER FROM USSR TERRITORY, OR BEEN RELEASED FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOWEVER, WHERE THE BALLOON CAME FROM OR ITS SPECIFIC PURPOSE CANNOT BE DETERMINED UNLESS THE BOX IS RECOVERED AND SUCCESSFULLY ANALYZED.

COORDINATION:

AFCIN-4E4

Col. Glaser

DATE 24 Feb 59

AFCIN-4E

Col. Gilbert

DATE 2/24/59

DATE	TIME
24	0935
MONTH	YEAR
FEB	1959

SYMBOL

AFCIN-4E4

TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature if required)  
Maj. R. J. Friend

PHONE 69216

PAGE 1

NR. OF PAGES 10

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

SIGNATURE

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE

10 LCU 131 J HARRELL

Captain, USAF  
Assistant Administrative Officer



JOINT MESSAGE FORM				SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED													
SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER																	
APR 14 21 06 '59				<div style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-15deg); display: inline-block;">4E48</div> <div style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-15deg); display: inline-block;">15/0338Z</div> <div style="font-size: 2em; transform: rotate(-15deg); display: inline-block;">44E WY</div>													
PRECEDENCE		TYPE MSG (Check)		ACCOUNTING SYMBOL		ORIG. OR REFERS TO		CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE									
ACTION ROUTINE		BOOK    MULTI    SINGLE		AF		AAC 50015		CONF									
INFO		X															
FROM: <u>ATIC, WP-AFB</u>								SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS									
TO: <u>AAC, ELMENDORF AFB, ALASKA</u> <i>W-K D A G</i>																	
<p>/UNCLASSIFIED/FROM: AFCIN-4E4g <i>4-716-E</i></p> <p>REF MSG ACS/INT AAC 50015, DTD 14 FEB 59, REQUEST ALL AVAILABLE INFO CONCERNING SUBJECT BALLOON AND EQUIPMENT BE FORWARDED TO THIS CENTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WHEN THE EQUIPMENT IS RECOVERED, REQUEST IT BE FORWARDED TO THIS CENTER.</p>																	
<p>COORDINATION:</p> <p>AFCIN-4E <i>George I. Gray</i> DATE <i>13 Apr 59</i>  <i>for</i> Col Rothman</p> <p>AFCIN-4E <i>Walt</i> DATE <i>4/14/59</i>  Col Gilbert</p>																	
								<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">DATE</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">TIME</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">10</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">0915</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">MONTH</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">YEAR</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">APR</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">1959</td> </tr> </table>		DATE	TIME	10	0915	MONTH	YEAR	APR	1959
DATE	TIME																
10	0915																
MONTH	YEAR																
APR	1959																
<p>SYMBOL</p> <p><i>AFCIN-4E4g</i></p> <p>TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required)</p> <p>MAJ ROBERT J. FRIEND</p> <p>PHONE 69216    PAGE 1    NR. OF 1</p> <p>SECURITY CLASSIFICATION</p> <p>UNCLASSIFIED</p>				<p>SIGNATURE</p> <p><i>L. J. Harrell</i></p> <p>TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE</p> <p>LOUIS J. HARRELL CAPTAIN, USAF ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER</p>													



[REDACTED]

AO86AGDO31

RJEDSQ

RJKDAG 27

17 APR 59 07 55


COMDR AAC ELMENDORF AFB ALASKA

COMDR AIR TECH INTEL CENTER WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

[REDACTED] FROM INT-150068

OR AFCIN-4E4G PD CITE 4-716-E PD ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION  
SUBSEQUENT TO MSG AAC 50015 WAS FORWARDED 5 MAR TO HQ USAF  
CS/INTELLIGENCE ON AF FORM 112 WITH PHOTOS CMA SKETCHES  
AND TRACK OVERLAYS PD PLANS FOR SEARCH FOR BALLOON AND  
EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN ABANDONED PD WHEN AND IF EQUIPMENT IS  
RECOVERED IT WILL BE FORWARDED TO YOUR CENTER PD

6/2154Z APR RJKDAG

 **ALL INTERNAL REFERENCES BY DATE-TIME GROUP  
PRIOR TO DECLASSIFICATION**

14E4G  
2  
3  
44X22 ✓

NNNN

[REDACTED]